



Gender Inequality in Algeria: How Women are Falling Behind

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Abstract:

Algeria has been open to the conversation of the reformation of discriminatory laws over the years. However, despite these efforts, women in Algeria are still treated as second-class citizens. Since the reevaluation of discriminatory laws, women have received more rights and their participation in public life has increased in the country, but it is important to understand that this growth has not been so life-changing. In order to better understand the current circumstances in which Algerian women are living, this study aims to gather data relating to general laws and regulations that directly affect women, statistics in education to understand women's standings, political representation of women in the country, healthcare and family life.

Research Question

Despite Algeria's reforms of discriminatory laws, have women achieved a true improvement in gender equality?

Hypothesis

Women in Algeria have not achieved gender equality despite some efforts on the part of the government to do so. The actions taken by the government are superficial and not enough to truly put women on an equal playing field with men in many aspects of life in the country.

Research Outline

- Chapter 1: Legal Framework- French Law and Shari'a
- Chapter 2: Women in Algerian Politics- Suffrage, political representation, notable figures and their impact
- Chapter 3: Economic Participation- Education, healthcare, financial credit, and labor markets
- Chapter 4: Social life- Patriarchal society, Islam, Personal Status Law, Social taboos, and the impact extremist groups have on the development of women
- Chapter 5: NGOs fighting for women's rights - Human rights, international aid aimed at women's development, UNESCO literacy training and employment for women, Femmes Algériennes Revendiquant leurs Droits (FARD)

Conclusion

Despite having had some amelioration in the distribution of rights to women in the country, the Algerian government has opted out or restricted several international treaties that would grant women equality to their male counterparts in the country. The country continuously bends the legal system in favor of maintaining the status of men in the country while declining to grant equal rights to women. There is a great underrepresentation of women in the parliament. Education and healthcare are provided to women in the nation, however, the availability of opportunities in the job market is low. Culture and religion are still main determining factors in keeping the gender gap so wide in the nation. NGOs and other international organizations are active in providing aid to assist in the development of women in Algeria. The government has constructed a façade of women's rights to appease the masses, however, it is clear that these resolutions are simply illusions and women are not gaining their equality to men in the country.